What is claimed is:

[Claim 1]   A system for avoiding a network address collision, the system comprising:

a server for distributing addresses for accessing a target network;
an originating network;
a computer connected to the originating network, the computer identified on the originating network with a first address, the first address having a first network address, the computer requesting a connection to the target network, the server returning a second address having the second network address to the computer in response to the computer's request, the computer comparing the first and second network addresses to determine whether there is a conflict, upon making a determination of a conflict between the first and second network addresses, the computer reporting that the second network address is in conflict.

[Claim 2]   The system of claim 1 wherein the server is a virtual private network (VPN) server.

[Claim 3]   The system of claim 1 wherein the server generates a different network address in response to the computer's report.

[Claim 4]   The system of claim 1 wherein the computer reports that the second network address is in conflict by defining a reason code in an address acknowledgement message.

[Claim 5]   The system of claim 3 wherein the server generates the different network address by selecting the different network address from a pool of pre-defined addresses.

[Claim 6]   The system of claim 3 wherein the server generates the different network address by performing a mathematical operation on the first address.

[Claim 7]   A method for avoiding a network address collision, the method comprising:

identifying a computer on an originating network with a first address, the first address having a first network address;
requesting a connection to a target network;
returning a second address having the second network address in response to the request step;

comparing the first and second network addresses to determine whether there is a conflict; and

reporting that the second network address is in conflict, upon making a determination of a conflict between the first and second network addresses.

[Claim 8]   The method of claim 7 wherein the requesting step further comprises requesting a connection through a virtual private network (VPN) server.

[Claim 9]   The method of claim 7 further comprising:

generating a different network address in response to the reporting step.

[Claim 10]   The method of claim 7 wherein the reporting step further comprises defining a reason code in an address acknowledgement message.

[Claim 11]   The method of claim 9 wherein the generating step further comprises selecting the different network address from a pool of pre-defined addresses.

[Claim 12]   The method of claim 9 wherein the generating step further comprises performing a mathematical operation on the first address to determine the different network address.

[Claim 13]   A computer readable medium whose contents cause a computer system to avoid a network address collision, the computer system having a client program and a server program, the computer system performing the steps of:

identifying a computer on an originating network with a first address, the first address having a first network address;

sending a request for a connection to a target network by the client program;

receiving a second address having the second network address at the client program in response to the request;

comparing the first and second network addresses by the client program to determine whether there is a conflict; and

reporting to the server program that the second network address is in conflict, upon making a determination of a conflict between the first and second network addresses.

[Claim 14]   The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the sending step further comprises requesting a connection through a virtual private network (VPN) server.

[Claim 15]   The computer readable medium of claim 13 further comprising:

generating a different network address by the server program in response to the reporting step.

[Claim 16]   The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the reporting step further comprises defining a reason code in an address acknowledgement message.

[Claim 17]   The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the generating step further comprises selecting the different network address from a pool of pre-defined addresses.

[Claim 18]   The computer readable medium of claim 15 wherein the generating step further comprises performing a mathematical operation on the first address to determine the different network address.